Media Release

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154 new recruits join the frontline

The next generation of energy workers have started work on the frontline, helping to deliver one of the nation's biggest and smartest infrastructure programs.

154 new apprentice line workers, electricians, cable jointers and motor mechanics have begun their four-year on the job training on the electricity network across Sydney, the Hunter and Central Coast.

EnergyAustralia Managing Director George Maltabarow said the new recruits were on their way to a stable career in a growing industry at a time of great change.

"The electricity industry is facing its biggest change in 100 years," Mr Maltabarow said.

"We are rolling out new smart grid technology as part of an $8 billion upgrade of the electricity network. These new recruits will help deliver these programs.

"They will be the first crew to wear our new brand Ausgrid, and they will be the first new crew to be trained at our state of the art learning centre."

There are more than 600 apprentices in training at Ausgrid, meaning the company will continue to be the largest single employer of apprentices in NSW.

The new apprentice crew were recruited from across the state, including:

- 26 from Newcastle and the Hunter;
- 24 from the Central Coast; and
- 94 throughout Sydney

Apprentices are trained at the Learning Centre in Silverwater, and at other facilities in Wallsend and Muswellbrook and through TAFENSW.

They are paid to learn and gain a nationally recognised trade while working on state-of-the-art infrastructure projects including our Smart Grid.

"We have been training apprentices since 1910. It is a strong tradition that continues through to this new crew," Mr Maltabarow said.

"Our trainers are some of the best tradespeople in the business and the passing-on of their skills and experience is vital for our electricity network."

Apprentices will join the frontline team serving the community during storms.

EnergyAustralia staff were called upon to help the efforts in Queensland after flooding and Cyclone Yasi and that tradition will continue under the new Ausgrid brand. These 154 new jobs are boosting the workforce, helping to fill the national skills shortage.

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